

Message Text

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SUBJECT: POLITICAL ROUNDUP - SECURITY AND LABOR

SUMMARY: THE GOP IS ENFORCING A STATE OF EMERGENCY BAN ON STRIKES. FAR-LEFT AND MOSCOW-LINE UNION LEADERS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED FOR SUSPECTED LABOR AGITATION. GOVERNMENT-SUPPORTED AND APRA LABOR LEADERS ARE UNTOUCHED. DECREE LAWS LIMITING JOB SECURITY ARE EXPECTED TO CURB LABOR UNREST WHEN THE STATE OF EMERGENCY TERMINATES. THE GOP IS ALSO CONCERNED WITH POSSIBLE AGITATION DIRECTED BY CIVILIANS FORMERLY ACTIVE IN THE REVOLUTION. INDIVIDUALS HAVE BEEN HARASSED, BUT THE GOP APPARENTLY IS REFRAINING FROM HEAVY-HANDED REPRESSION. END SUMMARY.

1. THE ONGOING STATE OF EMERGENCY AND GOP CONCERN WITH ORDER IS DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE GOVERNMENT'S FEAR THAT LABOR UNREST MAY SPEARHEAD CIVILIAN DISQUIET FOLLOWING A LIFTING OF THE STATE OF EMERGENCY. BEFORE THE STATE OF EMERGENCY LAPSES, THE GOP PLANS TO ISSUE A DECREE LAW PROVIDING FOR THE DISMISSAL OF WORKERS CONSIDERED TO BE LABOR AGITATORS. AN ADVISOR TO LABOR MINISTER GALINDO TOLD EMBOFF THAT THIS DECREE AFFECTING JOB SECURITY SHOULD BE ISSUED IN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS. IT SHOULD INDIRECTLY ACT AS A DETERRENT TO STRIKES. THE DECREE WOULD ENABLE EMPLOYERS TO FIRE WORKERS FOR CAUSE, INCLUDING INCITEMENT

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TO STRIKE. UNION ACTIVISTS WHO PRESSURE OTHER WORKERS TO STRIKE COULD BE FIRED. WORKERS COULD ALSO BE DISMISSED FOR "SABOTAGE OF PRODUCTION" INCLUDING DELIBERATE SLOW-DOWNS AND FOR DEFIANCE OF THE EMPLOYER IN THE EXERCISE OF HIS PROPER MANAGEMENT FUNCTION. FINALLY, CERTAIN MANAGEMENT EMPLOYEES WOULD NO LONGER BE COVERED BY COMPLETE JOB SECURITY.

2. LABOR MINISTR GALINDO HAS PUBLICLY REFERRED TO THE SOON TO BE PROMULGATED JOB SECURITY DECREE. HE ASSERTS THAT DISMISSAL CASES WILL BE DECIDED QUICKLY AND DEFINITELY BY A NEW ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL WITHIN THE LABOR MINISTRY. UNIONS WILL NO LONGER BE ABLE TO CREATE A POLITICAL CAUSE CELEBRE AND CARRY THESE CASES TO THE LABOR MINISTER AND EVEN THE PRESIDENT AS HAS OFTEN BEEN THE CASE.

3. IN ADDITION TO THE JOB SECURITY DECREE, MODIFICATIONS IN LEGISLATION REGULATING STRIKES ARE EXPECTED TO BE CONTAINED IN A COMPREHENSIVE LABOR LAW NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION. GENERAL STRIKES AND SOLIDARITY STRIKES (EXCEPT WITHIN AN INDUSTRY) ARE EXPECTED TO BE PROHIBITED.

4. AS LONG AS THE STATE OF EMERGENCY REMAINS IN EFFECT, THE GOP IS ENFORCING ITS STRIKE BAN. EVEN AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES HAVE NOW BEEN INCLUDED BY DECREE IN THE BAN ON WORK STOPPAGES. CO-OP MEMBERS WHO ENGAGE IN STRIKES OR WORK SHUT-DOWNS AUTOMATICALLY LOSE THEIR MEMBERSHIP RIGHTS.

5. POLICE HAVE BEEN SEEKING OUT ALLEGED LABOR AGITATORS. A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF MARXIST UNION LEADERS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED AND SOME ARE STILL HELD BY POLICE. THE FAR LEFT IS SAID TO BE OFF BALANCE WITH THE PATRIA ROJA AND BANDERA ROJA FACTIONS OF TEACHER AND STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS DISPUTING PROPER TACTICS TO PURSUE IN THE FACE OF REPRESSION. THOSE COUNSELING AGAINST STRIKE ACTIVITY AND "OVEREXPOSURE" OF LEADERSHIP PREVAIL THUS FAR. THE MOSCOW-LINE CGTP HAS ALSO BEEN AFFECTED AND SOME LEADERS DETAINED. THE CGTP METAL WORKERS FEDERATION IS PROTESTING THE ARREST OF ITS ORGANIZATION SECRETARY, WHOM MINISTER OF INTERIOR CISNEROS ACCUSED OF SABOTAGE IN THE FACTORY.

6. APRA-ORIENTED UNIONS ARE MAINTAINING A LOW PROFILE AND HAVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NOT RUN AFOUL OF GOP SECURITY MEASURES. APRA UNION AND PARTY LEADERS ARE DISAPPOINTED, HOWEVER, THAT THEIR COOPERATION WITH THE GOP HAS NOT LED TO EXPANDED POLITICAL DIALOGUE. IN FACT, APRA LEADER ARMANDO VILLANUEVA TOLD EMBOFFS THAT THE GOP HAS SUSPENDED CONTACT WITH APRA, PERHAPS BECAUSE IT IS STILL DIVIDED OVER THE ISSUE OF RELATIONS WITH APRA PARTICULARLY AND CIVILIANS GENERALLY.

7. GOP CONCERN WITH SECURITY IN THE CIVILIAN SECTOR EXTENDS BEYOND THE ORGANIZED LABOR MOVEMENT TO INCLUDE ACTIVITIES OF REVOLUTIONARY MILITANTS. LAST WEEK RADICAL JOURNALIST AND TV COMMENTATOR RAFAEL RONCAGLIOLO TOOK ASYLUM IN THE MEXICAN EMBASSY AND THEN FLEW TO POLITICAL EXILE IN MEXICO. INTERIOR MINISTER CIANEROS DECLARED THAT RONCAGLIOLO HAD BEEN UNDER SURVEILLANCE FOR "SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES" BUT THAT THERE WAS NO WARRANT FOR HIS ARREST. CISNEROS CLAIMED THAT HIS REQUEST FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM DEMONSTRATED A "GUILTY CONSCIENCE". WITHOUT ACCESS TO TV OR PRINT, RONCAGLIOLO SEEMED RELATIVELY HARMLESS, YET THE GOP WAS OBVIOUSLY CONCERNED WITH HIS ACTIVITIES AND PERHAPS WORRIED THAT THE DISAFFECTED CIVILIAN "REVOLUTIONARY MILITANT" MIGHT INFLUENCE YOUNGER MILITARY OFFICERS.

8. THE GOP SEEMS TO BE DEALING WITH THE RADICAL REVOLUTIONARY IDEOLOGUES AND THE MILITANT LABOR LEADERS IN A FORCEFUL, YET CONTROLLED AND RATHER SUBTLE MANNER.
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